

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 01946 301308Z

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 DRC-01 ISO-00 SWF-02 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-20 L-03

H-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 AGR-20 TAR-02 /152 W
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P R 301220Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6654

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

UMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, EC

SUBJECT: US RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORT OF WOOD PULP

REF: STATE 52843

1. ON MARCH 28, LOERKE, EC COMMISSION US DESK OFFICER, MADE AN INFORMAL APPROACH TO THE MISSION IN REGARD TO POSSIBLE U.S. RESTRAINTS ON EXPORT OF WOOD PULP FOR PAPER MANUFACTURE. HE SHOWED US A PAPER PURPORTED TO BE A STATEMENT TO BE FILED WITH THE U.S. COST OF LIVING COUNCIL BY LARGE U.S. PAPER PRODUCERS ENABLING THEM TO BE EXEMPT FROM U.S. PRICE CONTROLS. THE STATE-
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 01946 301308Z

MENT WOULD CONSTITUTE A COMMITMENT NOT TO EXCEED CERTAIN SALES

PRICES AND NOT TO EXCEED DURING 1974 THE 1973 VALUE OF WOOD PULP EXPORTS. LOERKE SAID THAT THE U.S. EXPORTS ANNUALLY TO THE EC 600,000- 700,000 TONS OF WOOD PULP, APPROXIMATELY 15 PERCENT OF EC IMPORTS. HE SAID THAT THE EUROPEAN PAPER INDUSTRY, WHICH CONSISTS MAINLY OF SMALL AND INEFFICIENT PRODUCERS, FEARS THAT THIS U.S. EXPORT RESTRAINT COULD BE VERY DAMAGING, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE FINNISH EXPORT RESTRICTIONS.

2. LOERKE ASKED THE MISSION TO CONFIRM WHETHER THE U.S. WILL INDEED RESTRAIN ITS WOOD PULP EXPORTS AND IF SO TO INFORM THE COMMISSION OF THE EXTENT OF SUCH RESTRAINTS. HE SAID THAT HE WAS APPROACHING THE MISSION INFORMALLY FOR INFORMATION, SINCE IT IS LIKELY THAT MEMBER STATES WILL RAISE THE SUBJECT IN THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE AND HE WOULD LIKE TO HEAD OFF A STIFF COMPLAINT. IN ANY CASE, IF EXPORT RESTRAINTS ARE CONTEMPLATED, THE COMMISSION WILL CERTAINLY WANT TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH COMMERCE SECRETARY DENT (REFTEL).

3. THE COMMISSION HAD RAISED THIS SUBJECT DURING THE ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS AND ARGUED THAT U.S. EXPORT RESTRAINTS ON PULP MAKE IT POLITICALLY MORE EMBARRASSING TO GIVE A CONCESSION ON KRAFT PAPER. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE COMMISSION HAD ARGUED THAT TOTAL U.S. EXPORTS OF WOOD PULP TO THE COMMUNITY WERE LARGER THAN OUR EXPORTS OF KRAFTLINER.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT FURNISH US INFORMATION ON ANY PROPOSED RESTRAINTS ON WOOD PULP EXPORTS, SO THAT WE MAY FORWARD IT TO THE COMMISSION. BARBIS

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